



Muslim Freedom Fighters & Their Contributions In Indian Independence.

Many Muslim freedom fighters of India who lived, fought and died for the country find no mention in most of the history books of India.

Why? Isn't it only because of their religious identity?

If we are asked to prepare a speech on Muslim freedom fighters who fought for Indian independence, it's probably only Maulana Azad along with the few famous names which come to our mind.

This is an injustice to other thousands of Muslim heroes whose names had been intentionally erased from the Indian history, let alone the tributes they deserve.

Here we are going to make a meaningful salutation to all our unsung Muslim freedom fighters whose contributions are biasedly, unlike other heroes.

First, we will discuss the 10 Muslim freedom fighters along with their contributions in brief and then will go on listing the names of other only to keep this post short and readable.

Here is the list of 10 freedom fighters & their contributions in brief:

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

- He was the first education minister of independent India.
- National education day is celebrated to commemorate Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's birthday.

The contributions of this Muslim freedom fighter both before and after Indian independence is something that cannot be erased but space he must get in Indian history, biasedly the historians didn't attribute him.

This is the reason, Maulana Azad is probably the only name which comes to our mind when we think about Muslim heroes who fought for Indian independence.

He was a great scholar and was the first education minister of India. Maulana Azad was one of the most important leaders of that time, prominently leading the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity encouraging secularism and socialism.

He was the brain behind the establishment of IITs (Indian Institute Of Technology) and UGC (Union Grant Commission).

A certain section of the people who allied with the Britishers during our freedom struggle still finds difficult to accept Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as a hero even that his contributions can't match with legacies of their ideals.

2. Maulana Hasrat Mohani.

- ★ Maulana Hasrat Mohani coined the famous slogan Inquilab Zindabad.
- ★ He gave a call for poorna swaraj (complete independence)

Maulana Hasrat Mohani was the first person to demand complete Independence for India, the resolution passed by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on 26th January 1930.

His slogan "Inquilab Zindabad" (Long live the revolution) is more famous than his own identity.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani mobilised youths and encouraged others through his works including

Urdu poetry.

He championed the freedom struggle and was jailed for many years by British Raj. Hasrat Mohani was the member of the constituent assembly who drafted the Indian constitution.

3. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan.

- ❖ He was also nicknamed as Badshah Khan.
- ❖ Abdul Ghaffar Khan started the Khudai Khidmatgar movement.

The third in the list of Muslim freedom fighters who played important role in the Indian independence is Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan.

Known as "Frontier Gandhi", this Muslim freedom fighter was one of the many to oppose the partition of India but failed to do so and was also subsequently jailed for this reason.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is known for his non-violent opposition. He was a close associate of Gandhiji.

He founded the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, the success of which attracted a very harsh repercussion from British Raj.

4. Dr Zakir Hussain.

- He was the first Muslim president of India.
- He co-founded the Jamia Millia Islamia.

Zakir Hussain actively encouraged Indian war of independence through his untiring efforts and educationalist movement.

He was the co-founder of Jamia Millia Islamia which became one of the leading centres and was involved in the Indian freedom struggle.

Dr Zakir Hussain was conferred with the Bharat Ratna award and subsequently went on to become the first Muslim president of Independent India from being an educationist.

He actively advocated the non-violent movement that drove out the British rule.

5. Mohammad Sharfuddin Quadri.

Mohammad Sharfuddin Quadri was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2007 for his active role in Indian independence by the then president of India, APJ Abdul Kalam.

An Unani physician, Sharfuddin Quadri is also among the unsung heroes of India who was a Muslim. He joined Mahatma Gandhi in the famous Salt March.

This Muslim freedom fighter of India was from Bengal whose family moved to Calcutta from Bihar.

He was imprisoned with Gandhiji in the Cuttack jail. After Indian independence, he chose to stay away from politics but continued his contributions to the country.

Being an Unani practitioner, Sharfuddin Quadri used to examine more than 100 patients per day without charging any fee.

He died on the 30th of December in Kolkata 2015 at the age of 114.

6. Asaf Ali.

A notable lawyer, Asaf Ali was an Indian freedom fighter who fought the legal battles for many heroes who were jailed during the independence movement.

He actively participated in the "Quit India Movement" and was jailed along with Jawaharlal Nehru. But the Indian history did hardly mention about this Muslim hero.

7. Maulana Mazharul Haque.

Born in Bihar, this Muslim freedom fighter donated every bit of his property for educational movements before he died.

He actively participated in both, Non-Cooperation movement and Khilafat Movement. He was to the part of Champaran Satyagraha. There are several institutions in Bihar named after him.

8. Saifuddin Kitchlew.

Strongly opposed to the Muslim league's two-nation theory, Saifuddin Kitchlew is mostly honoured for the protest against the implementation of Rowlatt Act which led him to jail with Gandhiji.

A protest was organised against their arrest in Jallianwala Bagh which led to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

9. Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi.

This Muslim freedom fighter from Bihar joined the non-cooperation movement in 1921.

Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi strongly opposed the Jinnah's two-nation theory and the creation of a separate state for Muslims.

11. Yusuf Meher Ali.

Yusuf Meher Ali Yusuf was a Muslim freedom fighter about whom probably you know nothing but the slogans he gave haunted a lot to the Britishers.

The slogans "Simon Go Back" and "Quit India" were coined by none other than Yusuf Meher Ali.

Others in the list of Muslim freedom fighters of India are:

11. Abid Hussain.

He joined the Indian National Army under Shubhash Chandra Bose by leaving his engineering study behind in Germany. The slogan of Jai Hind was given by Abid Hussain that was frequently used by Bose.

12. Ashfaqullah Khan

13. Peer Ali Khan

14. Bakht Khan

15. Allah Bux Sumro

16. Professor Abdul Bari

17. Alauddin Hyder

18. Turrebaz Khan

19. Mahmud ul-Hassan

20. Abbas Ali

21. Moulvi Muhammad Baqir

22. Vakkom Majeed

23. Muzaffar Ahmad

24. Mohammad Abdur Rahman

25. Mohammad Ali & Shaukat Ali.

This is not the complete list of all the Muslim freedom fighters and it is not only these Muslims took part in the freedom struggle.

The above are only those who were famous and were subsequently more or less documented representing only the fraction.

The list could not mention all the heroes due to the unavailability of authentic information about them. However, you can find information about some of them in encyclopaedic sources like Wikipedia.

Indian Independence Movement.

This is the history of the world's longest freedom struggle led by the Indians against the British Raj starting from the rebellion of 1857 to 1947, the year when ultimately India got its independence.

So, we have covered the story around the year 1947. The list is very long and outnumbers the other when it comes to documenting the role of Muslims in the revolt of 1857 and after that.

We have another post in our other blog detailing the Revolt of 1857 and the Muslims who played a heroic role in that uprising (Role Of Muslims Of In the Revolt Of 1857).

To claim the fact about the role of Muslims in the revolt of 1857, I am going to quote the statement of the British Army General, Tomson from his memoir:

If to fight for one's country, plan and mastermind wars against occupying mighty powers are patriotism, then undoubtedly maulvis (read Ulama hanged by the British rulers) were the loyal patriots to their country and their succeeding generations will remember them as heroes." (Rebellion Clerics:P-49)

This statement should be an eye-opener for those who still rely on modern Indian historical sources to take an account of the story of the world's longest independence movement scripted both by Muslims & non-Muslims alike.

Conclusion.

That's all about the contributions of some Muslim freedom fighters in brief.

What forced us to write this article is the ignorance of those who instead of shouldering our freedom fighters sided with the colonial powers during the Indian war for independence are nowadays questioning the legacy of our ancestors and are in fact subjecting the whole Muslim community to humiliation in the name of patriotism.

To some extent, Muslims are also responsible for this as we never bother to dig up our own history.

But, this independence day, let's tribute all those unsung heroes who fought for this country, who struggled for us and who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, rising above the bigotry of those forces who are almost successful in erasing the Muslim heroes of this great land except the above also for which I had to go crawl hard to collect information about them.

Do a bit by sharing this post with your friends, relatives and everyone and awake them with this piece of information.

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